

ers are sufficient to cut German commerce entirely off the seas. The addition of our navy could add nothing there. As for land forces, the few thousand soldiers that might be spared from our little regular army would not be worth sending across the Atlantic. They would only add another complication to a situation already too complicated by the field friction of allied warfare.

If, then, Germany should triumph over all, she would hold in her conquering heart a rankling desire to punish us for our hostile act in joining her enemies in her hour of direst peril.

This war is not of American making, and neutral America ought not to seek a hand in it. Frenchmen, we are told, regard contemptuously of the United States for its refusal to take up their cause, but that mood is fantastic and will vanish with the return of peace and mental balance. We settled our own great peril in the civil war, and our stout-hearted people never thought of considering it a grievance that neither France nor England came chivalrously to our assistance. Yet the moral issues of the civil war were much clearer than the moral issues bound up in the European fighting.

PEACE ON EARTH.

Tomorrow is Christmas, the day most hallowed of all the year's sacred anniversaries, the anniversary of that momentous day when the doubt of the centuries was put to rest, when the hope of the centuries was given a real materialization, when the words "peace on earth and to man good will" thrilled the universe. Why should not the children of men ring joy-bells in a praise service on such an occasion? Why should not men gather around their altars and with choir and harp and flaming incense do honor to the day?

The first Christmas day revealed the golden link that binds mortality and immortality, that served notice that death could at best but boast a temporary triumph that for the grave there could be but a temporary victory. The cross that was laboriously lifted in derision by brutal Roman soldiers while a scoffing multitude stood jeering near, has changed to a light to the world; it has become the standard of all the ruling nations of the earth; its illumination is continuously extending and growing more clear; its majesty exceeds that of all else that the rolling ages has brought to mankind—the radiance from it is filling the whole world with celestial splendor.

Why, then, should not this earth of ours be good? Why should there not be gifts, as symbols of the gift brought to man by the day? Why should not the hearts of children be made glad? We are told that at the birth in the crude manger in Bethlehem the great angel uttered the words, "peace on earth and to man good will." An angel choir took up the refrain and "all the hosts of heaven shouted for joy." Why should not the children of men sing for joy on every re-occurrence of the sacred day? Why should there not be outward ostentatious displays of thanksgiving and gratitude. Why should there not be a praise service in the soul of every man?

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

According to the annual report of Postmaster General Burleson, the postal savings banks of this country now hold about \$66,000,000 in deposits, belonging to more than half a million depositors. This is certainly a fine showing for this branch of the postal service and seems to indicate that the postal savings banks fill "a long felt need." Of course, if there were no postal savings banks, it is reasonable to believe that a portion of this large fund—perhaps a very considerable portion—would be "directly placed with other banking institutions. On the other hand, it also is reasonable to believe that a considerable share would remain hidden away in secret hiding places, withdrawn from circulation and kept in idleness, and doing no one any particular good.

When the proposal to establish a savings department in connection with the postal service was being agitated, this plan was bitterly opposed by many, and especially by some of the bankers who insisted such a system would interfere with the regular business of the banks. On the other hand, it was urged that postal savings banks would merely draw out secret hoards and the accumulated savings of those who were afraid or reluctant to trust the regular banks, and in this manner would put back into general circulation a large amount of capital that otherwise would remain idle. Also it was argued that many foreign workmen in this country would deposit their savings with the government, instead of sending this money back home, it being a well-known fact that members of this class are ignorant and suspicious of American banking customs, and proverbially chary about entrusting their funds to private bankers.

The success of the postal savings banks appears to have justified the latter line of arguments, for certain-

ly this system has made wonderful progress during the years it has been in operation. Nor can one doubt that most of the money thus gathered has been such as otherwise would have remained in hiding and kept in idleness. Even the bankers now freely concede the merits of the postal savings bank system and the valuable service which it renders to the public and the nation as a whole. For of course the latter benefits by having this vast sum of money gathered up from the small savings of individuals and put back into circulation through the medium of the regular banks. No one, in fact, would now think of proposing to discontinue the postal savings banks, for the latter have proved their worth in unmistakable manner.

SEAL FIGURES.

A good many people probably fail to appreciate the magnitude of the Red Cross Christmas seal campaign. Here are a few figures that will show what a gigantic movement this is. Already 225,000,000 seals have been printed and practically that entire number distributed to agents in every state and territory of the union, from Alaska in the north to the canal zone in the south and from Porto Rico in the east to Hawaii in the west. Advertising circulars, posters, cards, etc., to the number of several million have also been distributed. Not less than 1,000,000 personal letters asking people to buy seals have been sent out. It is estimated that the army of workers, nearly all of whom are volunteers, engaged in selling the seals numbers well over 500,000. The advertising and publicity donated to the campaign amounts to several hundred thousand dollars.

It is hoped by the directors of this movement to sell at least 75,000,000 seals this year, and as the people are in a generous mood this hope may be fulfilled. The number specified is less than one seal for each person in this country and represents only a moderate increase over the number of seals actually disposed of last year. It will mean \$750,000 for the anti-tuberculosis campaign in the United States, and it should not be forgotten that practically all of the 1,200 anti-tuberculosis associations of the country derive their support from Red Cross seals.

ROAD SUPERVISORS.

It is incumbent upon the county court at its first meeting of the new year to appoint road supervisors for the ensuing twelvemonth, and in the selection of men who are to be largely responsible for the condition of our rural highways great care should be taken. The court knows by experience whether those already holding these important positions are qualified to be continued; it also knows those who should be relegated to the background, and it should act accordingly to its best judgment and in the interests of good roads. Good fellowship should not in any wise enter into the matter, for there is a good fellow who is not even capable of constructing a passable path to his own barnyard. The supervisors of the past year, with possibly few exceptions, have accomplished good results under the direction of the roadmaster. Those who are "known by their works" are entitled to further recognition by the court, while those whose accomplishments have been little or nothing should be supplanted by live, active workers. Much depends upon the road supervisor, notwithstanding his superior officer is in the lead, and Polk county should have no sluggards in that department during 1916.

Thirty-eight of the fifty-six chairmanships in the House of Representatives are held by southern democrats, and only one important chairman hails from a northern state. The south is in the saddle when the democrats rule in Washington.

And now they tell us that nevertheless this country had a tariff which was scientifically adjusted. And yet every time the tariff has been revised the people have been assured that at last it had been placed on a really scientific basis.

The chairman of the rivers and harbors committee gives notice that there is to be no new legislation for waterway improvements during the present session of congress. Which is bad news for the pork grabbers.

Some of the members of congress want an investigation of the woman suffrage lobby. And the women may possibly be glad to win even this much attention by congress.

Uncle Joe Cannon predicts a lively session of congress. And of course Uncle Joe will do his part to make it so.

After the war is over someone is going to have a fine time revising "international law" and bringing it up to date.

It is safe to say the president is not thinking much about congress these days.

Observer want ads. do the biz.

OTHER THINGS

A Rare and Curious Collection of Fact and Fancy.

Friends Galore. I care not for the man who's "mad" at none. Who claims to be on friendly terms with all; Who'll leave his true friend in the lurch and run To some Bardolphian idler's tempting call.

For such a man cannot be really true, Nor true to him his friends will ever be; My friends are constant, though they be but few; They are not friends unto mine enemy.

So, while the man, who boasts of friends galore, Is ever seeking new ones to his stand By flattery and intrigue; nevermore Can I, in friendship, ever grasp his hand. For unto no one can this man be true Who loveth both your enemy and you.

—W. J. H. Chitwood.

We asked one of the pretty school teachers the other day what had become of the old fashioned school man who put the backward boy on a stool with a dunce cap on his head. Being such a pretty young thing she could hardly answer that weighty question. "But," said she, "what has become of the dunce?"

John Bown buys a new corn-cob pipe once every month.

The fellow with the B. V. D.'s doesn't have much to smile about these nippy mornings.

Paid Advertisements. When that referee (?) got through with the first half of the game last Saturday he had lost not only his standing in the community, but his ability, reputation, peace of mind and best girl. All that forever lost when he was only supposed to umpire the game—and any fool can do that.

Popular Funeral Music. Chorus of 200 voices; "We want Pebo!"

Bill Himes is an optimist. The other day the war college table in the Gail dining room was practically deserted. Bill saw the state of affairs and accepted it by saying: "Oh, well, there'll be no one here to steal all the butter."

We have been told by several reliable authorities that this is good weather for ducks.

Shades of Dear Old Omar! Ah! Make the most of us while yet you find In your pants pockets stuff the mints designed— Before we on the bankrupt's cot do lie. Sans kale, sans health, sans clothing and sans mind.

W. V. Fuller didn't acquire "Ole" as a nickname because he's a Swede. That's just his natural way.

A. C. Peterson eats prunes once a month, although he handles them and breathes their fragrant odor every day.

One's letter of credit should be what he is and what he can do, rather than what he has been and what he has done.

Occasionally Walter Ballantyne, the popular athlete and clubman, goes in to see John Uglow to have that versatile musician play for him the pretty old song: "A Girl in Your Arms is Worth Two in Your Dreams." Walt, always insists, too, on hearing, "If I Had a Cottage in The Country."

C. B. Stone, who takes photographs and lets his hair grow longer, says that he would be keenly disappointed in a customer of his if the remark about "breaking the camera," or "I'll crack the plate" was not made.

OTHERS' OPINIONS

To the Editor: There is a condition in the public schools of Dallas that should be brought to the public attention. That is the fact that married women, with husbands well able to support the family, are employed as teachers to the absolute exclusion of the many young girls, who at the expense of such tolerant ones as I, are being educated at the State Normal school. Hundreds of these young ladies are turned out of the Normal school each year with nothing in the future but a position as school teacher. Presenting themselves for a place in the Dallas schools they are confronted by a host of married women, whose husbands are well able to care for a family, and the monopoly of the positions by such people gives them a sight into the future that is anything but promising, and they are turned away.

In the two schools in Dallas alone there are five married women employed as teachers. It is a condition that reflects discredit upon the school board and the school system. Surely, there is no objection to hiring a

teacher who has been married, if she needs the support of such a position. But to employ women whose husbands keep up comfortable, and even luxurious homes, excluding the many young girls whose present and future depend upon the livelihood they can gain in the profession is not much short of abominable. The state educates these girls in the profession, and they seek positions as they should, only to find married women, in some cases with children as old as the average school teacher, occupying the chair they should fill. This question should receive attention from all concerned with the working of the school system in Dallas. TAXPAYER.

(Submitted by R. G. Dykstra.)

Co-ordinate with the advent of agriculture in the public schools, is the development of the county fair. Granting the point that it is necessary to interest the boys and girls in farm life, the fact remains that, in order to do this, it is essential that they share to some extent, the responsibilities of the farm. However, in addition to making it possible for the young people to apply the ideas secured from the agricultural courses taught in the public schools, an opportunity should also be given them to compare work. Such action will create on the part of the boy or girl a desire to produce a better article than can any other boy or girl. At the same time, one of these youngsters, observing what a remarkable success his neighbor is having, due to the use of improved methods of farming or of feeding, will be anxious to learn and apply these methods to his own work.

County fairs are organized for this purpose. They not only provide a means whereby the rural youngsters may compare work, but they also assist materially in creating interest in a larger number of these young people. Several instances have been noted where competition in the show ring was very keen. As many as thirty-five exhibitors of potatoes have been shown at one county fair. Consequently thirty-five boys or girls were actively interested in potato growing. The same may be said regarding many of the other exhibits shown at the fair. In this way the county fair has come to be a great factor in creating and distributing an interest in agricultural education.

The benefits to be derived from the county fair, however, are not all individual benefits. An entire community may obtain lasting advantages as well as any individual in that community. Not only are new and practical methods introduced into the community by the younger generation, through their contest work and Boys' and Girls' club work, but these ideas are passed on to the older people, developing in them a desire for better farms and more attractive environment. Such changes often result in uniting an entire community in farming from a scientific standpoint.

Community work may be the nature of specialization. In fact it is advisable for communities to concentrate their efforts in such a manner, rather than attempt to raise several different types of produce. By specializing on one or two crops it is possible to get these adapted to the climate and soil conditions of the community. Again, a larger community exhibit at the county fair speaks well for that community and serves as a means of advertising the product. Buyers are attracted to that locality by the possibility of purchasing material in large quantities. The spirit of co-operation is developed in the citizens of that neighborhood and a much more prosperous and attractive community results.

A CHRISTMAS TREE

(By E. N. Gilliam)

Crops were good and prices fair. Snow on the ground, frost in the air; With Christmas presents piled here and there, And the children knew not a single care.

Mr. Brown said: "I'll go out and see if I can find you children a Christmas tree." He searched for a tree both far and near. Then he said, "I wonder who's been here."

Though many trees he had in mind, It seemed that he was just behind. He looked at his watch; "It's too late said he, But I must not go home without a tree."

At last a beautiful tree he found, And a few kicks brought it to the ground; But before he reached the old farm gate The moon was up, the clock struck eight.

Inside the fire was burning bright— The children watched in the pale moonlight— Why had their father stayed so late; How much longer would they have to wait.

Mrs. Brown's face showed an ache white, She had looked for her husband long before night; She heaved a sigh and said, "I fear," Then the children cried, "He's here; he's here."

Would Buy Telephone Line.

The farmers living north of Monmouth held a telephone meeting Saturday to incorporate a company and buy the lines they use from the "Bell" people, if possible.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS DINNER ??????

- We have anything you want or need in the grocery line. See if there is not something in this list that you need: Campbell's Soups. Clams, whole or minced. Oysters. Celery. Green Olives (Bulk or Bottled). Ripe Olives. Dill Pickles. Sweet Pickles. Mixed Pickles. Head Lettuce.

- FISH. Salmon. Shrimp. Tuna. Cod Fish.

- CANNED GOODS. Beans. Peas. Corn. Tomatoes. Pumpkin. Asparagus Tips. Peaches. Pears. Apricots. Pineapple. All kinds of fresh vegetables that the market supplies.

- FRUITS. Bananas. Oranges. Grapes. Lemons. Grape Fruit. Figs. Dates. Fresh cakes, either package or bulk. Nuts. Candies. Coffees. Teas. Grape Juice. Pineapple Juice. Cheese, Cream or brick.

This is only a few of the items that we can supply you with. Don't forget we give S. & H. trading stamps. Phone us your orders, we are here for business. All we want is a chance to supply your needs. We try to keep only the best of everything.

DALLAS GROCERY CO. Successors to Simonton & Scott.

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DR. KORINECK'S REMEDIES ARE THE BEST HEALING AGENTS KNOWN FOR DISEASES OF HORSES, CATTLE, HOGS, SHEEP AND POULTRY

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Awarded Gold Medal P. P. I. E. San Francisco, 1915. The Strongest and nearest water-proof shoes made.

For Loggers, Cruisers, Miners, Sportsmen and Workers. Men's Comfort Dress Shoes Strong Shoes for Boys Manufactured by THEO. BERGMANN SHOE MANUFACTURING COMPANY 621 Thurman St. Portland, Oregon Ask for THE BERGMANN WATER-PROOF SHOE OIL

Send It By Parcel Post

Send us your laundry by parcel post. The rural carrier is now authorized to transact this business. It costs but a few cents. We'll return it promptly. DALLAS STEAM LAUNDRY.

DO YOU LIKE HONEY?

Twenty-four pound case lots at wholesale prices, cash, or exchange for your grain, and other produce that I can use. Floyd E. Smith, 619 Washington street, phone 1303.